

**From:** Steven L. Mading  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 4:20pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing as a concerned citizen employing my rights under the Tunney Act, which state that the proposed Microsoft Settlement with the Department Of Justice must allow for a period of public comment. This message is my public comment.

In short, I think the proposed settlement is inadequate to remedy the situation.

Rather than give a list of reasons, which would be repetative with lists in other people's letters, I will simply expand on one point I find particularly important: Microsoft Office dominance:

The proposed remedy of forcing Microsoft to publish their program calls (or "API") because they have become de-facto standards doesn't address the other more important de-facto standard over which they enjoy control - namely the file formats they use for saving Office documents in programs such as Word and Excel. Because compatability with Microsoft Office applications has become a neccessity with their monopoly position, if Microsoft can continue to hide the format of these files, they can continue to deny competing products entry into the marketplace. Many aspects of modern life, for good or bad, have come to depend on Word(tm) documents as the standard form of business interchange. There are even many Human Resources departments in large companies that will only take electronic resumes in Microsoft Word format and no other. It should be obvious that there are monopolistic influences at work when to look for a job, you must own a product from one specific company and no other. Certain government offices also disseminate public information in Microsoft Word(tm) format.

Now, I feel the ideal remedy would be to educate people on how they are helping prop up the monopoly situation every time they choose to only accept input in Microsoft Word format and no other - but such a remedy isn't ever going to occur. In a free market, monopolies don't

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